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Marshland Rural District Council

1965

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the

Senior Public Health Inspector

(Mr. A.L. Wesley, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I)

District Council Offices
Alexandra Road,
Wisbech.

J. McD. HANLEY,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S.,
D.P.H.

MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Chairman (Councillor S. Booley), the Vice-Chairman (Councillor A. E. Terrington, J.P.) and the full Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH -

J. A. Slattery, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. until June, 1965.
J. McD. Hanley, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S. D.P.H. from August, 1965.

Local Health Office,
Area No.7,
48, Howdale Road,
DOWNHAM MARKET.

Telephone - Downham Market 3241.

also holds appointments of -

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health
School Medical Officer
Medical Officer of Health, Downham Market Urban District Council
Medical Officer of Health, Downham Rural District Council.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR -

A. L. Wesley, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND ASSISTANT SURVEYOR -

D. R. Jones, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK -

Miss A. Carter.

MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year ending 31st December, 1965.

The community health within the past year has remained satisfactory. No epidemics of serious disease occurred and there are no signs of any chronic or continuous infections.

Infant Mortality Rates

These have increased greatly and at first sight must cause alarm. However, the actual number of deaths in our district is small, but has increased over last year's figure in the perfectly normal movement of these occasional accidental occurrences.

There is therefore no need for alarm nor pessimism.

Immunisations & Vaccinations

These are proceeding satisfactorily. In particular, the increased number of schoolchildren who have had booster doses against tetanus is salutary, and heralds a time when all adults will be protected throughout life because of the completeness of school immunisation.

Smallpox Vaccination

Primary Vaccination		Total	Revaccination		Total
Under 5	5 - 15		Under 5	5 - 15	
281	9	290	-	9	9

Tetanus

Primary Courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 5	5 - 15		Under 5	5 - 15	
543	346	889	130	1006	1136

Whooping Cough

Primary Courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 5	5 - 15		Under 5	5 - 15	
524	8	532	90	68	158

Diphtheria

Primary Courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 5	5 - 15		Under 5	5 - 15	
532	75	607	128	913	1041

Poliomyelitis

Primary Courses		Total	Booster Doses		Total
Under 5	5 - 15		Under 5	5 - 15	
581	81	662	13	399	412

B.C.G. Vaccination

Number given the preliminary skin test	Number Vaccinated	Number referred for Chest X-ray
397	353	4

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I would like to record my appreciation for the assistance and support I have had during the year from the Clerk, Public Health Inspectors and members of the Local Health Office staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN HANLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	56,562
Population in 1931	15,350
Population in 1951 (Census)	16,567
Population in 1965 estimated mid year home population	17,550
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1965	5,672
Ratable value 1965	£347,203
Product of a penny rate 1965	1,385

LIVE BIRTHS	260
Rate per 1,000 population	15.11
Ditto for Administrative County	17.26
Ditto for England and Wales	18.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	6.54
DEATHS (All Causes).	178
Rate per 1,000 population	11.25
Ditto for Administrative County	10.39
Ditto for England and Wales	11.5
STILL BIRTHS	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and still Births	15.15
Ditto for Administrative County	12.84
Ditto for England and Wales	15.7
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	264
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	8
INFANT MORTALITY RATES	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births	30.77
Ditto for Administrative County	16.11
Ditto for England and Wales	19.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Births ..	24.69
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	117.64
(EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE)	
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Live Births)	15.38

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total Live Births) ... 26.92

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(Still Births and Deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births) 30.30

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including Abortion)

Number of Deaths	NIL.
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	NIL.

1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Norfolk Executive Council, 54, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich.
Clerk - F.H. Adams, Esq.

(a) GENERAL

(i) Norfolk Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
(ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
(iii) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
(iv) St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn, (For chronic sick).
(v) North Cambs Hospital, Wisbech.
(vi) The Howdale Home, Downham Market.

(b) MATERNITY

(i) Bowthorpe Maternity Hospital, Wisbech.
(ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).
(iii) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

(c) INFECTIOUS

(i) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.
(ii) Peterborough Isolation Hospital.
(iii) Cambridge Isolation Hospital.

(d) SANATORIA

(i) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) MENTAL

(i) St. Andrews Hospital, Norwich.
(ii) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
(iii) Little Plumstead, Norwich.

2. MATERNITY SERVICES

(a) District Nurses showing areas served (at times of compilation of this report).

Nurse Stevens - Terrington St. Clement (North of Railway Line) Terrington Marsh, Walpole St. Andrew and Walpole Cross Keys.

Nurse Flewin - Terrington St. John, Fen End, Terrington St. Clement (South of Railway Line), Tilney St. Lawrence (Cum-Islington), Marshland St. James and Walpole Highway.

Nurse Reynolds - Tilney All Saints and Clenchwarton.

Nurse Colman - West Walton, Walsoken, Emneth and Walpole St. Peter.

Vacancy (Relief - Nurse Horton) - Upwell, Outwell, Welney, Three Holes and Lakesend.

(b) MATERNITY

Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments.

(i) Bowthorpe Maternity, Wisbech.

3. AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

The hospital car service for the Marshland area is conducted by the Local Health Office, Nelson Street, King's Lynn.

The Marshland area is jointly served by the Downham Market and King's Lynn Ambulances.

Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by East Dereham, Wisbech and King's Lynn Ambulances.

4. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS

(a) Terrington St. John - Mrs. D. Greer, Church Road, Terrington St. John.

(b) Walpole St. Peter - Mrs. G. Woods, Walpole St. Peter.

(c) Terrington St. Clement - Mrs. R. Spurling, 'Reselle', 41, Lynn Road, Terrington St. Clement.

(d) Outwell - Mrs. Roper, Eason House, Outwell.

(e) Three Holes - Mrs. D. Jermey, 'Roysan', Three Holes.

5. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

(i)	Walpole St. Peter	- 2nd Tuesday.	2 - 4 p.m.
(ii)	Terrington St. Clement	- 3rd Tuesday.	2 - 4 p.m.
(iii)	Clenchwarton	- Last Monday.	2 - 4 p.m.
(iv)	Emneth	- Last Tuesday.	2 - 4 p.m.
(v)	Tilney St. Lawrence	- Last Thursday.	2 - 4 p.m.
(vi)	West Walton	- 2nd Wednesday.	2 - 4 p.m.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends at the above centres.

In addition Village Infant Welfare Centres are held at the following villages - Upwell and Three Holes. These centres are conducted by the Local Nurse/Midwives and Health Visitors, and are visited periodically by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

(b) HOME HELP SERVICE

The County Home Help Scheme is doing excellent work and Home Helps are at present available for most parishes and villages.

6. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

MALES - Tuesdays and Fridays - 5.30 p.m.

FEMALES AND CHILDREN - Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 3.00 p.m.

7. DISINFECTION

(i) Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

8. LABORATORY SERVICE

(a) Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich. Under the direction of Dr. L.M. Dowsett.

(b) Public Analyst, Eric C. Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., Clarence House, 6, Clarence Road, Norwich.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1965.

Table No. 1.

	CAUSE OF DEATH	M	F	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	-	2
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	6	6
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	-	7
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	3	11
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	4	13	17
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	22	22	44
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	2	4
20.	Other Heart Disease	5	8	13
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	6	4	10
22.	Influenza	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	11	7	18
24.	Bronchitis	3	1	4
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
31.	Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	10	6	16
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	-	4
34.	All Other Accidents	4	-	4
35.	Suicide	2	1	3
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	1	-	1
	Total All Causes	96	82	178

Table No. 2.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1965.

Notification in Age Groups.

Disease	Age Unknown	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65 & Over	TOTAL
	AGES													
Measles	-	1	4	9	2	9	18	1	2	1	-	-	-	47
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmonella Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	2	4	10	2	9	22	1	2	1	-	-	1	54

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

1965. Table No.3.

(Other than Tuberculosis).

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	1	1	4	-	-	-	4	20	14	-	-	3	47
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmonella Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	2	6	-	-	1	4	20	14	-	1	3	54

Table No.4.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS - 1965.

Age in Years	New Cases. Respiratory Male	New Cases. Respiratory Fem.	New Cases. Non Respiratory Male	New Cases. Non Respiratory Fem.	Deaths. Respiratory Male	Deaths. Respiratory Fem.	Deaths. Non Respiratory Male	Deaths. Non Respiratory Fem.	TOTAL
-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1965.

The cesspool emptying service gave rise to many problems during the year. Demand again increased for the emptying of drainage systems serving private properties and inevitably a longer delay in emptying occurred. This service was also affected by the loss of two main disposal points in the south of the district which resulted in an increase of vehicle milage to dispose of cesspool contents. Every effort was made to find other means of disposal and experiments were made with earth pans from which the dried sludge could eventually be spread on to the land. These pans had to be carefully sited but at least reduced the amount of straw required for compositing.

In September the Council's Consulting Engineers submitted their comprehensive report on the sewerage requirements of the District. Priorities for Parishes were recommended by the Engineers and agreed by the Council. Negotiations have been commenced for acquiring land needed for pumping stations in West Walton, Emneth, Walpole St. Peter, Terrington St. John, Tilney St. Lawrence and Walsoken Parishes.

WATER SUPPLY:

This service is provided by the Wisbech and District Water Board.

The following information has kindly been supplied by Mr. J.S. Collins, Chemist and Bacteriologist, Wisbech and District Water Board:-

The water supplied to the Marshland Rural District comes from two sources:-

(a) The Board's Marham Works.

(b) King's Lynn Corporation Water Department (Bulk Supply to Margaretta Bridge Pumping Station).

Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1965 on samples from the Board's Marham Works, Margaretta Bridge Pumping Station and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

The water supplied by the Board to Marshland Rural District is not plumbo-solvent.

A sample taken on the 17th December, 1965, from the distribution system off Marham Pumping Station, on which a fluoride estimation was carried out, had a fluoride content of 0.05 parts per million (as F).

There were no cases of contamination of the water supply in the Marshland Rural District during 1965.

SUMMARY of Examinations and Analyses

Samples Taken	Bacteriological Examinations			Chemical Analyses
	No. of Tests Taken	No. of Tests Negative	No. of Tests Positive	
Board's Works - Raw Waters	146	140	6	
Board's Works - Treated Waters	406	406	-	
King's Lynn Bulk Supply Margaretta Bridge	101	101	-	
Consumers' Taps	52	52	-	
Totals	705	699	6	124

Total of all examinations and analyses 829

Out of the total of Board's treated water samples, samples taken at Margaretta Bridge pumping Station (Bulk Supply from King's Lynn) and samples taken from consumers' taps, 100% were negative on examinations for organisms of the coliform group. This represents a continued very high standard of bacterial purity.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

Cesspools, privy vaults and septic tanks, with sewage disposal plants on the larger Council Housing Sites, are the main methods of disposal.

The cesspool emptying service was operated by two vehicles which were fully employed in coping with the demand from both Council and private properties. Regular de-sludging of the sewage plants serving Council housing sites was also carried out.

Disposal of the effluent is an ever-recurring problem and consideration has still to be given to the provision of a more permanent system available throughout the year.

The following work was carried out during the year and again an increase was shown over the 1964 figures:-

Cesspools	Privy Vaults	Housing Plants
3,263	154	80

It is interesting to note the decrease in the emptying of privy vaults, which shows steady progress in conversion of vaults to water closets.

RIVER POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS:

The district continues to be controlled by the two main Internal Drainage Boards of the Marshland Fen and West of Ouse together with the Middle Level Commissioners with outfalls controlled by the River Boards of the Nene and Ouse.

During the summer months, the Well Creek, situated in Outwell and Upwell gave rise to complaints of smell. Representations were made to the Middle Level Commissioners to control weed growth and increase the flow of water.

FRUIT PICKERS' QUARTERS AND SEASONAL WORKERS - CARAVANS:

The problem of housing and siting caravans for seasonal workers still exists. Periodical visits to sites were continued and except for a few isolated cases a reasonable state of cleanliness and order was maintained.

A survey was made during the peak period of the residential and casual caravans in the district and a report given to the Norfolk County Council.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960:

The policy has continued of controlling caravan sites by inviting applications where exemption cannot be claimed.

Greater use was made of the two licensed holiday caravan sites in the Outwell and Upwell Parishes.

The only large residential site (up to 20 caravans) in the area failed to comply with the licence condition relating to water supply. Informal action was taken to ensure compliance but by the end of the year all caravans had been removed.

The other small site of four caravans maintained a satisfactory standard.

INFESTATION BY PESTS:

(a) Bed Bugs	No reports of infestation were received.
(b) Fleas	No cases were reported or found.
(c) Flies	No major problems arose. The refuse tip was treated by the Department and individual cases were dealt with by modern insecticides.
(d) Cockroaches	No cases of infestation were reported.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACTS:

A rodentoperator is not employed by the Council. There were no heavy infestations reported. The Department maintained a constant watch over the refuse tip and baiting continued regularly. Advice was given to various persons reporting infestations and in some cases help was given by the Department in controlling infestation on premises.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

The Council continued its policy of a fortnightly kerbside collection in the district and small extensions to the service were made.

Use of the Wisbech Canal was continued and by December a length of approximately 4,750 feet had been filled. This tip is receiving the refuse from the Borough of Wisbech, Wisbech R. D. C. and the Emneth, Outwell, Upwell and West Walton Parishes of this area. Measures were taken against fly and rodent infestation and injurious weeds were cut down on the filled section. Trade refuse was accepted under the control of the Surveyors.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

274 visits were made to all types of food premises during the year.

28 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES - MEAT INSPECTION:

No slaughterhouses were in operation during the year and little progress was made on the premises under construction at Walpole St. Peter.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED:

27 tons 2 cwts. 3 grs. Conference Pears.

MILK AND DAIRIES:

Milk samples were taken by the staff of the County Council.

OFFENSIVE TRADES:

There is one licensed knacker's yard in the area at Terrington St. John and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING:

Progress was made on the Slum Clearance programme and appreciation should be recorded of the Council's help in this respect. By arrangement with the Housing Officer, applicants rehoused from properties were notified to my Department. Inspection of these houses was made and appropriate action taken either by closing or for repairs to be carried out. Development by Private Enterprise and Council went ahead and I give below the number of new dwellings completed.

Houses and bungalows completed by the Council - 37
Houses and bungalows completed by Private Enterprise - 90

247 plans were submitted to the department during the year for approval under the Council's Building Byelaws.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS DURING 1965.

Parish	Closing Orders made	Under takings accepted	Demolition Orders made	Demolition by Formal/ Informal action.
Clenchwarton	1	-	-	6
Emneth	-	-	1	-
Marshland St. James	-	-	-	-
Outwell	-	-	-	4
Terr. St. Clement	1	-	1	1
Terr. St. John	-	-	-	4
Tilney All Saints	-	3	-	-
Tilney St. Lawrence	-	-	-	-
Upwell	5	1	1	4
Walpole St. Andrew	-	-	-	-
Walpole St. Peter	2	-	1	-
Walsoken	-	-	-	-
West Walton	3	1	-	-
TOTALS	12	5	4	19

SLUM CLEARANCE:

Following the Minister of Housing and Local Government's request for up to date figures on housing programmes, the Council decided that a further survey of unfit property in the district should be undertaken. However, owing to pressure of other work this has not yet been put in hand.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

It was found necessary to serve informal notices on owners of properties to carry out certain essential repairs and all these were carried out without the service of statutory notices.

Standard Grants

Applications approved - 44

Discretionary Grants

Applications approved - 3

On receipt of Improvement Grant enquiries inspection of properties was made with the Council's Architect and the applicants given appropriate advice.

NUISANCES - General complaints - Routine Visits etc.

Summary of Visits - 1965.

	Visits
Building Byelaws	2,107
Water Supply	4
Sub-soil Drainage	83
Movable Dwellings	138
Factories	61
Bakehouses	7
Refuse Collection and Disposal	295
Rodent Control	69
Petroleum	14
Housing	209
Slaughterhouses	12
Food Premises	274
Infectious Disease	5
Miscellaneous	109
Planning Acts	89
Improvement Grants	72
Street Numbering and Naming	22

FACTORIES:

No formal action was necessary. The numbers of factories and bakehouses registered in the District are as follows:-

Parish	No. with Mechanical Power.	No. with no Mechanical Power.
Clenchwarton	3	-
Emneth	12	2
Marshland St. James	1	1
Outwell	4	-
Terr. St. Clement	10	-
Terr. St. John	6	1
Tilney St. Lawrence	4	-
Upwell	7	2
Walpole St. Andrew	7	1
Walpole St. Peter	2	4
Walsoken	1	-
West Walton	2	-
TOTALS	59	11

1. Number of Visits made	61
2. Number of Notices issued	-
3. Prosecutions	-
4. Types of defect found and by whom reported	-
5. Action taken to remedy defects	-
6. Number of Outworkers	1

A. L. Wesley,

Senior Public Health Inspector
and Surveyor.